

Cushing exits quietly

Duxbury
firefighter retires
after 48 years of
service

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After nearly 48 years of service to the Duxbury Fire Department, firefighter Harvey Cushing retired on Sept. 3. When it came to his job he was always front and center, when it came to the limelight he stayed in the background. A modest man, he was well respected by his fellow firefighters, and was a man the department could always count on, Deputy Chief Chris West said.

"Basically he was quiet guy, does his job, goes about his business," West said. "He knew his job well, he didn't say a lot but by watching his stuff you learned. I learned a lot by watching him."

Cushing began as a call firefighter in December of 1959 until August of 1973 when he was appointed a full-time firefighter. In 1974 he became one of the first EMTs to serve on the Duxbury Fire Department.

Over the course of his career he served under five chiefs, and went through a variety of changes within the department and the fire service.

West worked with Cushing for almost 21 years. When West started at the department Cushing was one of his first partners. West said when he first started he didn't know what to expect; it was good to have Cushing around to show him the ropes in a calm atmosphere.

"It was good to have him as a partner, he never got excited, he went about business and he did



PHOTO COURTESY DUXBURY FIRE DEPT.

Firefighter Harvey Cushing, just doing his job. Cushing retired this month, having served Duxbury for 48 years.

it, and he did it well," West said. "When you look at someone who dedicated 40 years to one employer, that is pretty impressive now a days."

West said Cushing's knowledge went beyond that of basic firefighters and EMT duties, he was very knowledgeable with all the fire apparatus, and spent a lot of time helping the department get the best equipment for their money. When the department purchased a new ladder truck a few years back he did a lot of behind the scenes work to make sure they were getting the best truck that would last them 30 years, West said. "He was very reliable, he would come in a moments notice to fill in for a shift," he said.

He was great with the big equipment and the brush trucks during wood fires he said. "It is hard to describe someone that is laid back and doesn't like the limelight, but it is guys like that

you can count on when you need something," West said. "He was a big apparatus guy, he did a lot for the department apparatus wise, the ladder truck big accomplishment for him."

Firefighter Dennis Reddy was on the job with Cushing for 30 years and worked on shift with him for five or six years.

"He was a good guy, very quiet guy, once you got to know him he opened up," Reddy said. "He was a good firefighter, he did a great job."

Although Cushing has officially retired from the department, West said he would not be surprised if he saw him poking his head in around the station, "especially during brush fire season, I know he will be sticking his head in and it will be good for us we'll be asking him questions along the way," he added. "He is still interested in the department and we will be able to tap that knowledge now and again."